



WEST AFRICA NETWORK FOR PEACEBUILDING

Progress Report
April-June 2025

OVERVIEW OF QUARTER TWO (Q2) PROGRAMME ACTIVITIES

OVERVIEW OF PEACE AND SECURITY DYNAMICS IN WEST AFRICA

During the second quarter of 2025, WANEP's National Early Warning Systems (NEWS) documented **2,161** human security-related incidents across West Africa, resulting in **4,807** fatalities and **2,038** injuries. The monitoring report captures trends across four thematic areas: Organised Crime and Violent Extremism; Democracy and Governance; Gender, Peace and Security; and Environmental Security.

Organised Crime and Violent Extremism

The region continues to face escalating security threats from organised crime and violent extremism. Between April and June 2025, a total of **1,069 incidents** were recorded, leading to **3,995 deaths** and **662 injuries**. These incidents encompassed terrorist attacks, armed banditry, agro-pastoralist conflicts, armed robbery, gang violence, kidnapping, homicide, and trafficking in persons and drugs.

Compared to the first quarter of 2025 (943 incidents and 1,278 deaths), the second quarter shows a significant increase in both the number and lethality of incidents, highlighting a deteriorating security landscape.

According to WANEP's NEWS data:

- **356 armed attacks**, including banditry and gang violence, resulted in **815 deaths**.
- **173 homicides** accounted for **2,660 deaths**.
- **101 terrorist attacks** were recorded in Nigeria, Togo, Benin, Burkina Faso, and Mali.

Extremist groups such as Jama'at Nusrat al-Islam wal-Muslimin (JNIM), Boko Haram, and Islamic State West Africa Province (ISWAP) remain active, launching high-casualty attacks and drone strikes across the central Sahel and into coastal West Africa.

- In Burkina Faso, JNIM fighters temporarily seized the provincial capitals Djibo (Soum) and Diapaga (Tapoa) in May 2025, killing over **300 people**¹ and occupying military and administrative facilities.
- In Niger, the Mossi Paga military camp in Tillabéri was overrun in a similar offensive.
- In Benin, multiple raids targeted military outposts in Alibori and Atacora.
- In Togo, a suicide drone attack by JNIM injured several soldiers in Djignindjoaga (Savanes region), further demonstrating the expanding reach of Sahel-based extremist groups.

In response, counter-offensives have intensified. The Alliance of Sahel States conducted joint airstrikes that reportedly dismantled insurgent bases in Ségou and Mopti, Mali, in April 2025².

Illicit drug trafficking remains a major and evolving threat. WANEP NEWS recorded **218 incidents** involving substances such as cannabis, cocaine, heroin, tramadol, methamphetamine, codeine, and a dangerous psychoactive drug known as "suck and die". Major hotspots included Nigeria, Senegal, Liberia, Guinea, Niger, Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, Togo, and Benin.

¹ <https://acleddata.com/2025/06/06/africa-overview-june-2025/> (Accessed July 6, 2025)

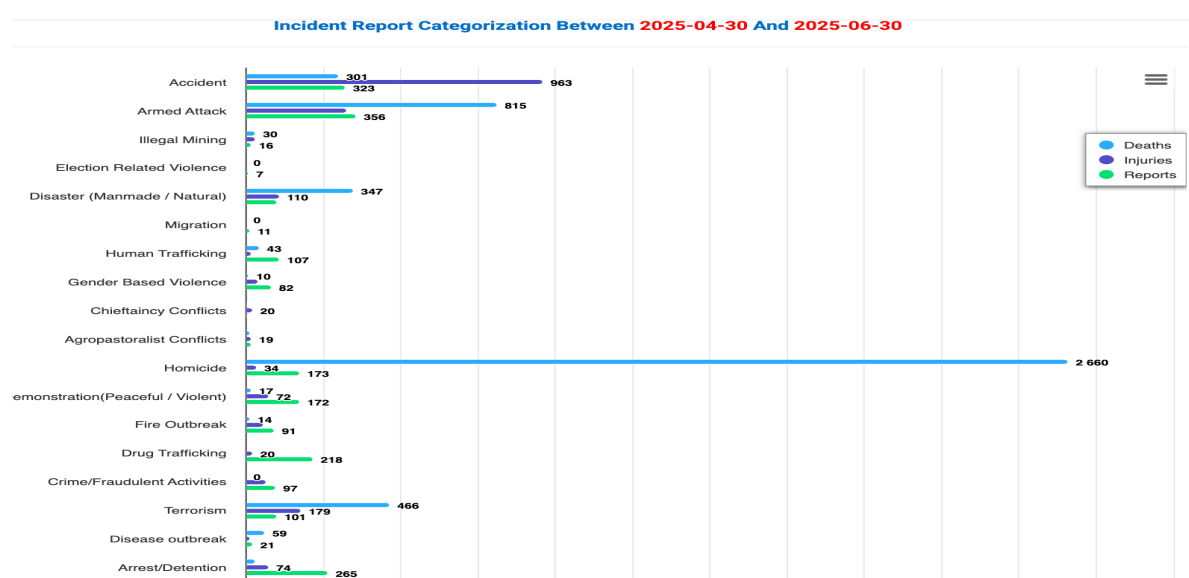
² <https://acleddata.com/2025/05/09/africa-overview-may-2025/> (Accessed May 15, 2025)

These countries are no longer just transit zones but increasingly serve as domestic drug markets. Youth and vulnerable groups are heavily involved, raising the risks of public health crises and community-level violence.

Human trafficking and abduction also remain pressing concerns, with **107 incidents** resulting in **43 deaths** during the period under review.

The proliferation of Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW) continues to undermine regional peace and security. A significant case occurred in May 2025, when **47 lorries** disguised as humanitarian aid were intercepted at the Togo-Burkina Faso border, carrying: i) **15,000 AK-47 rifles**, ii) **5,000 M16 rifles**, iii) **3 million rounds of ammunition**; iv) **50,000 hand grenades**; v) **1,500 rocket launchers**; vi) **200 anti-aircraft missiles**; vii) **20 tonnes of explosives**.

The cache, valued at an estimated **\$100 million**³, is believed to have originated from conflict zones such as Yemen, Syria, and Libya⁴, underscoring the complexity and transnational nature of arms trafficking in the region. These arms continue to fuel violent conflict, strengthen armed groups, and frustrate counterterrorism efforts across West Africa.



The chart indicates the number of incidents, fatalities and injuries recorded across the region from April to June 2025
Source: WANEP NEWS

³ Guns and bombs arrive in Burkina Faso as “humanitarian aid” - <https://thebftonline.com/2025/06/02/guns-and-bombs-arrive-in-burkina-faso-as-humanitarian-aid/> (Accessed June 5, 2025)

⁴ ibid

Democracy and Governance

The democracy and governance landscape in West Africa was largely shaped by preparations for key upcoming elections: the presidential election in Côte d'Ivoire (October 2025), the constitutional referendum in Guinea (September 2025), and the municipal elections in Togo (July 2025). These electoral processes continue to generate significant debate among stakeholders, with growing calls for transparency and inclusivity.

At the same time, the region is witnessing democratic backsliding, marked by shrinking civic space and restrictions on freedoms of expression and association. In May, the Malian authorities dissolved political parties. In Côte d'Ivoire, opposition leaders continue to demand inclusion on the electoral list for the October presidential election. In Guinea, political leaders, journalists, and activists face frequent arrests and detentions. Similarly, in Togo, peaceful protests are being routinely suppressed by law enforcement agencies.

Despite these setbacks, civil society organisations, human rights defenders, and opposition groups persist in their efforts to safeguard democratic gains. During the reporting period, 184 peaceful demonstrations and protests were recorded across the region. Additionally, 100 violent demonstrations took place, resulting in seven **deaths** and **87 injuries**. The majority of these incidents occurred in Togo, Côte d'Ivoire, Benin, Guinea, Senegal, Ghana, Nigeria, and Liberia.

As Côte d'Ivoire approaches its presidential election, the political climate remains tense. At the second ordinary congress of the ruling party, *Le Rassemblement des Houphouëtistes pour la Démocratie et la Paix (RHDP)*, President Alassane Ouattara was elected party leader, fuelling speculation about his candidacy. Major opposition figures, including Laurent Gbagbo, Tidjane Thiam, Guillaume Soro, Blé Goudé, and Noël Akossi Bendjo, have been excluded from the final electoral list. In response, the Democratic Party of Côte d'Ivoire (PDCI-RDA) and the African Peoples' Party – Côte d'Ivoire (PPA-CI) have formed a coalition to advocate for their inclusion, renewed political dialogue, and a revision of the electoral list.

During its recent Summit of Heads of State and Government in Abuja, ECOWAS called for dialogue among all stakeholders and mandated the President of the Commission to swiftly deploy a pre-election fact-finding mission to Côte d'Ivoire. The mission is expected to assess the country's preparedness and identify areas where support is needed to ensure a peaceful and transparent electoral process.

In Togo, a significant constitutional change took place on 19 April 2024, when the National Assembly adopted a new Constitution, transitioning the country into a Fifth Republic. The reform abolished the direct election of the President of the Republic and established a parliamentary system⁵, effectively granting extensive powers to the head of state without term limits. The constitutional overhaul has drawn sharp criticism from many Togolese, both at home and in the diaspora. Civil society organisations reported at least seven deaths in clashes between protesters and security forces. Allegations of kidnappings, torture, and summary executions have also surfaced. While Togolese authorities issued international arrest warrants for protest leaders, the demonstrators continue to demand a return to the 1992 Constitution and an inclusive democratic process. Ahead of the June protests, traditional leaders in Dangbuiapé, Golfe 1 Commune, Lomé, expressed their opposition to what they termed "illegal demonstrations" and reaffirmed their commitment to peace, social cohesion, and institutional respect.

⁵ Présidentielle en Côte d'Ivoire : Alassane Ouattara fait durer le suspense. <https://www.france24.com/fr/%C3%A9missions/journal-de-l-afrique/20250623-pr%C3%A9sidentielle-ivoirienne-ouattara-fait-durer-le-suspens>

In Guinea, in the lead-up to the constitutional referendum scheduled for 21 September 2025, President Mamadi Doumbouya announced the creation of a General Directorate for Elections, placed under the Ministry of Territorial Administration and Decentralisation. However, with just months to the referendum, key appointments, including the Director, Commissioners, and staff, have not yet been made, raising concerns about the credibility and feasibility of the process. Additionally, the Guinean Bar Association staged a two-week boycott of courts following the abduction of Lawyer Mohamed Traoré from his home in Conakry by unidentified men. Although released, the Attorney General has launched an investigation. The National Front for the Defence of the Constitution (FNDC) has called on the new ECOWAS Chair of the Heads of State and Government, President Julius Maada Bio, to intervene by persuading the Guinea government to release political prisoners, journalists, and activists detained since the 11 September 2021 coup.

In Mali, following similar actions by Burkina Faso and Niger, the transitional authorities on 13 May 2025 issued a decree dissolving all political parties. This move was justified as part of efforts to "pursue reforms" and "ensure a calm and sovereign political environment." The decree was preceded by a demonstration by opposition parties on 3 May 2025, viewed as an act of defiance against the military regime. The decision was formalised after the National Transitional Council repealed the Charter that governed political parties' formation, operation, and financing. Authorities argue that the dissolution aligns with recommendations from the 2021 National Dialogue and Refoundation Conference. Nonetheless, former party leaders have initiated legal action to challenge the decree and question its constitutionality.

Women, Peace And Security

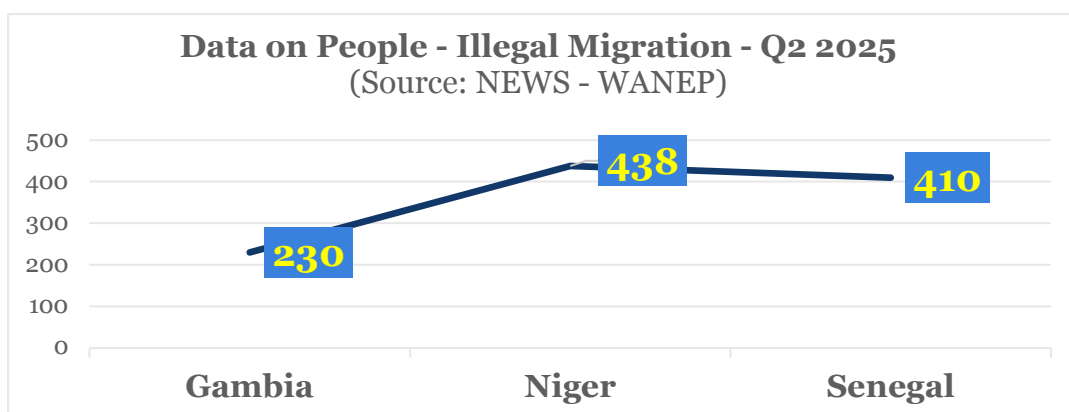
During the second quarter of 2025, **119 incidents** of gender-based violence (GBV) were recorded, affecting **165 victims**, of whom 95% were women and children, and 10% were men and boys. Among the reported cases, **84 women** were trafficked or abducted, **45 were raped**, **35 children were trafficked**, and **one ritual killing** was documented.

Concerning trafficking, WANEP NEWS recorded two major incidents involving a total of 84 victims, comprising women and men. Nigeria accounted for 80 victims, while Senegal recorded 4 victims. On 11 May 2025, the Director General of the National Agency for the Prohibition of Trafficking in Persons (NAPTIP), Binta Adamu Bello, OON, officially received in Lagos 80 Nigerian returnees (75 women, two men, and three children) who had been trafficked to Côte d'Ivoire. This reflects continued efforts by national and local authorities to combat human trafficking, a persistent and serious security threat in West Africa that requires coordinated, holistic action by all stakeholders.

In Senegal, security agents from the Kédougou branch of the National Division for the Fight against Migrant Trafficking and Related Practices (DNLT) arrested a woman for criminal conspiracy, complicity in forgery, and human trafficking. She confessed to purchasing four young girls for 500,000 CFA francs (approximately USD 1,000) each from a Senegalese accomplice. Following investigations, the suspect was charged before the public prosecutor at the Kédougou High Court on 24 April. The victims were placed in the care of a reception centre for support and reintegration.

The devastating impact of rape and sexual abuse, particularly of minors and women, requires urgent attention. During the reporting period, the documented age bracket of victims ranged from nine months to 21 years, while perpetrators were aged between 20 and 81. The countries with the highest number of reported rape cases were Senegal (14), Liberia (9), Nigeria (5), and Benin (5).

At least nine incidents of child trafficking were also recorded, leading to the rescue of 35 children by security operatives.



The WANEP NEWS systems recorded 12 incidents related to irregular immigration, involving 1,078 victims of around 20 nationalities. Police authorities intercepted 230 migrants in Nema Village, Gambia; 410 in Senegal of seven nationalities; and 438 migrants in Niger's Agadez region on 25 April. Among these, 11 were Nigerians and 427 were from 18 African countries. The group, returned from Libya, was received in Madama by the Defence and Security Forces with support from the IOM.

Compared with the first quarter, when 666 cases were recorded (447 men and boys, 206 women and girls, 11 children and 2 infants), this represents a 61% increase. Irregular immigration has therefore emerged as one of the major challenges of the first semester (January to June), with a total of 1,744 people affected, including 1,506 intercepted migrants and 238 returnees.

Environmental Security

During the reporting period, the environmental security landscape in West Africa was largely dominated by the outbreak of Mpox. Notably, this outbreak occurred at a time when health systems across the region are under immense strain due to global cuts in public health support. Many people have been cut off from essential health services, and already, fragile disease surveillance systems are under additional pressure.

As of 17 June 2025, Sierra Leone had recorded **4,000 confirmed cases of Mpox** and **25 deaths**⁶. While the Mpox vaccine has proven highly effective, access remains a major challenge in the country.

In Ghana, the Ghana Health Service (GHS) confirmed **26 new Mpox cases**, bringing the total number of infections nationwide to 45⁷. These new cases, reported as of 31 May 2025, were announced in a Ministry of Health update shared on its official Facebook page on 3 June 2025. Although the number of confirmed cases increased sharply, no deaths were recorded. The rise in case numbers was attributed to enhanced surveillance and improved contact tracing, which enabled faster detection and isolation of cases within communities.

⁶ 20 Fighting Mpox: UNICEF Scales Up Critical Support in Sierra Leone. Available at: <https://www.unicef.org/sierraleone/press-releases/fighting-mpox-unicef-scales-critical-support-sierra-leone>

⁷ Mpox outbreak: 26 new cases confirmed, total cases now 45. Available at: <https://www.myjoyonline.com/mpox-outbreak-26-new-cases-confirmed-total-cases-now-45/>

In Liberia, between January and 11 May 2025, the country reported 652 suspected cases. Of the 572 samples tested in laboratories, **78** were confirmed as Mpox infections⁸. As of 19 May 2025, Liberian health authorities reported four active confirmed cases: one in Sinoe, two in Montserrado, and one in Margibi. In total, 78 cases have been confirmed since the start of the outbreak, of which 77 have recovered and one remains active. No deaths were reported during the quarter under review.

Togo reported its **first** confirmed cases of Mpox during this period. Three cases, including two women and one man, were identified in the capital, Lomé⁹. In response, the Togolese Ministry of Health implemented isolation protocols to prevent further transmission. Two of the confirmed cases had been in contact with more than 55 individuals.

To combat this contagious viral disease, the governments of affected countries enhanced epidemiological surveillance, early warning systems, and public awareness campaigns. Efforts also focused on securing Mpox vaccine doses, with priority given to high-risk groups such as healthcare workers, immunocompromised individuals, and close contacts of confirmed cases. Ministries of Health underscored the importance of preventive measures and guided what to do in the event of symptoms. Health authorities further urged the public to continue adhering to basic safety practices.

⁸ Liberia confirms new Mpox cases. Available at: https://www.liberianobserver.com/news/liberia-confirms-new-mpox-cases/article_120f98cb-3425-4231-b828-ceadb17eec9.html

⁹ Togo: premiers cas de Mpox détectés à Lomé, les autorités sanitaires en alerte. Available at: <https://www.rfi.fr/fr/afrique/20250521-togo-premiers-cas-de-mpox-d%C3%A9tect%C3%A9s-%C3%A0-lom%C3%A9-les-autorit%C3%A9s-sanitaires-en-alerte>

REGIONAL AND NATIONAL HIGHLIGHTS

1. TO ENHANCE THE USE OF EARLY WARNING IN SUPPORT OF RESPONSE INITIATIVES

1.1.1. The NEWS team of **WANEP Mali** monitored socio-political and security dynamics, resulting in the production of a thematic report analysing two critical developments: i) The 17 April 2025 strike by the National Union of Banks, Insurance, Financial Institutions, and Related Trades (SYNABEF), including a rapid alert and response report to prompt with actionable recommendations and timely engagement with stakeholders; ii) The growing threat of drug trafficking and substance abuse in Mali, highlighting associated risks and proposing coordinated, sustainable responses focused on prevention, enforcement, and youth support.

1.1.2. WANEP took part in the ECOWAS Pre-Election Fact-Finding Mission to Côte d'Ivoire from 29 June to 5 July 2025. As part of a 13-member expert team, WANEP engaged in over 20 consultative meetings with key stakeholders, including political parties, religious leaders, media, civil society, and diplomatic missions. WANEP also contributed to the mission report, drawing on its June 2025 policy brief on the upcoming presidential election.

1.2. As part of the EU-funded project *Electoral Violence, Monitoring, Analysis and Mitigation (E-MAM)*,

1.2.1 WANEP Côte d'Ivoire engaged in key initiatives aimed at mitigating electoral violence ahead of the October 2025 presidential election:

- ❖ On 13 June 2025, WANEP participated in a consultation between the AU pre-election assessment mission and civil society. The meeting provided an opportunity for WANEP, through the National Elections Response Group (GNRE), to present a policy brief and share recommendations focused on electoral inclusion, the prevention of hate speech, and the need for a structured political dialogue.
- ❖ From 21 to 23 May, a national training on electoral conflict prevention and management was held, supported by the WANEP Regional Office, to strengthen stakeholders' preparedness.
- ❖ During Q2 2025, three meetings of the National Elections Response Group (GNRE) were held. These meetings provided the space for interactive discussions on the evolving electoral context, analysed incidents reported across the country, and issued targeted recommendations. Key challenges identified included the limited inclusion of persons with disabilities, media regulation gaps, and growing tensions in certain regions.
- ❖ On 30 June 2025, WANEP Côte d'Ivoire participated in a high-level consultation convened by the ECOWAS Commissioner for Political Affairs, Peace and Security. The meeting brought together key civil society actors to reinforce collaboration around the implementation of the ECOWAS Supplementary Protocol on Democracy and Good Governance, with a focus on preventing electoral conflicts ahead of the national polls.
- ❖ From 26 to 30 May 2025, the Network took part in a training workshop under the project "*Strengthening the Reliability of Information in West Africa*," organised by GIZ in partnership with Africa Check. The training brought together 25 media and civil society representatives and aimed to enhance participants' skills in fact-checking, audiovisual content creation, and strategic communication on social media. This initiative supports early warning mechanisms and helps curb the spread of disinformation in the electoral context.

1.2.2. WANEP Guinea undertook the following key activities during Q2 2025:

- ❖ Pre-validation Workshop of Strategic Tools (3-4 June 2025): The workshop aimed to consolidate essential project tools to anticipate and mitigate electoral violence ahead of the upcoming referendum on 21 September 2025. As key outcomes, a detailed risk mapping analysis was

conducted, identifying priority areas and necessary adjustments for targeted intervention and a stakeholder matrix was revised and enriched to reflect local and regional dynamics for improved coordination and response.

- ❖ **Stakeholder Information Meetings (3-28 June 2025):** These engagements were held with implementing structures, relevant government departments, and key stakeholders to mobilise support for the effective implementation of project activities.
- ❖ **Consultation Process on Electoral Risk Factors (initiated in June 2025):** A series of consultations with civil society and political actors was launched to deepen understanding of risk factors in Guinea's electoral processes. The initiative aims to inform the development of timely and relevant analysis reports to support decision-making. The consultations and research will continue in July.

1.2.3 On 8 April 2025, **WANEP** convened a capitalisation and post-election workshop in Dakar, Senegal, focused on strategies that contributed to the prevention of electoral violence during the 2024 elections. Funded by the European Union (EU), the workshop provided a platform for experience-sharing and for charting next steps. Its purpose was to revisit these contributions in order to distil key lessons. Discussions centred on assessing the impacts and lessons learned from the E-MAM interventions, as well as identifying the main post-electoral challenges and opportunities for future action.

2. TO STRENGTHEN WOMEN AND GIRLS' CAPACITY FOR POLICY-INFLUENCING

2.1 WPS Coordination¹⁰ Meeting: WANEP held its second quarterly WPS Coordination Meeting on 1 July 2025, convening WPS focal points from all 15 National Networks. The meeting served as a platform to review progress, share updates on programme implementation, assess challenges, and strengthen planning efforts for the remainder of the year. This regular coordination continues to reinforce strategic alignment and peer learning across the region

2.2. GenderTalk¹¹ Series:

- ❖ **WANEP convened the 17th edition of its GenderTalk Series on 30 June 2025,** focusing on women's leadership and political participation in Côte d'Ivoire, Guinea, and Guinea-Bissau ahead of upcoming elections. The webinar, which brought together 50 participants¹², offered a platform for sharing experiences and good practices, including the enforcement of gender quota laws. Côte d'Ivoire's 2023 local elections were highlighted as a success, with women securing over 33% of council seats, surpassing the 30% legal quota¹³. Discussions underscored the importance of political will in ensuring compliance with gender parity laws and called for sustained advocacy, public education, and greater visibility of women's achievements to create an enabling environment for women's political participation.
- ❖ On 24 April 2025, **WANEP Togo**, in collaboration with UNDP Togo, held a GenderTalk session with 24 media professionals. The session revisited the history of the women's rights movement and the contributions of key female figures over time, reigniting participants' commitment to gender equality and justice. A discussion on gender-based disinformation also deepened awareness of

¹⁰ The quarterly coordination meeting provides a platform for programme updates across National Networks and facilitates mutual learning through experience sharing.

¹¹ **GenderTalk**, launched by WANEP in June 2020, is a digital platform for discussing peace and security issues with a focus on the concerns of women and girls. It also facilitates experience sharing among stakeholders on the progress, challenges, and prospects of advancing the Women, Peace and Security (WPS) Agenda in the region.

¹² 80% of whom were women and young women from civil society

¹³ <https://www.7info.ci/elections-locales-2023-11-892-femmes-candidates-enregistrees-sur-35-302/>

the issue within the media sector. Participants proposed a series of follow-up media activities, along with a timeline for implementation, to strengthen gender advocacy efforts.

- ❖ On 19 June 2025, **WANEP Nigeria** hosted a GenderTalk session to mark the International Day for the Elimination of Sexual Violence in Conflict, with a focus on the implementation of United Nations Security Council Resolution (UNSCR) 1820 in Nigeria. The forum brought together around 60 participants, including representatives from government institutions, civil society, youth peacebuilders, and the media. It served as a platform to assess national progress on addressing sexual violence in conflict and to explore survivor-centred and community-driven responses. Discussions shed light on ongoing violations in conflict-affected areas, such as Borno and Plateau States, and highlighted persistent challenges, including stigma, weak enforcement mechanisms, and limited support services. Key recommendations included enhancing government coordination, increasing public awareness through schools and community media, mobilising resources for local actors, and integrating community-led action plans into national policies to ensure a more effective and inclusive response.

2.3. WANEP co-hosted the 2025 Conflict Prevention and Sustainable Peace Forum on 28 May 2025 at the Kofi Annan International Peacekeeping Training Centre (KAIPTC), alongside the Australian High Commission in Ghana, West Africa Democracy Solidarity Network (WADEMOS), the Sierra Leone High Commission, and the Liberian Embassy. The high-level event, held under the theme “Amplifying Women’s Voices in Democratic and Political Transitions”, convened 130 participants, including representatives from security agencies, civil society, the diplomatic corps, and development partners. The forum underscored the need for intentional and practical efforts to ensure women’s full participation and leadership in peace, security, and governance, especially during political transitions and in fragile contexts.

2.4. WANEP participated in the Africa Facility for Women in Political Leadership Co-Design Workshop held from 10 to 11 April 2025 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. Organised by the UNDP Regional Programme for Africa, in partnership with the African Union Commission (AUC) and the African Women’s Leadership Network (AWLN), the workshop aimed to shape the development of the Africa Facility¹⁴, a new initiative to tackle the underrepresentation of women in political leadership across the continent. WANEP contributed as a strategic partner, drawing on its expertise in Women, Peace and Security (WPS). The workshop convened around 30 stakeholders, including AU, UNDP, AWLN, civil society, and women politicians, to co-design the implementation framework.

2.5. From 10-12 June 2025, **WANEP** supported ECOWAS in delivering a national training in Ghana on the use of the ECOWAS Simplified Continental Results Framework (CRF)¹⁵ for reporting on Women, Peace and Security (WPS). The training, held in Accra, forms part of WANEP’s role as co-chair of the ECOWAS WPS Steering Committee. The training brought together 30 participants from key institutions, including ECOWAS, the Ghanaian Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection, civil society organisations, and development partners such as the EU Delegation and the German Embassy. Ghana joins seven other ECOWAS Member States who have benefited from this process and are expected to submit their national WPS reports by the last quarter of 2025, contributing to the development of a regional WPS report.

2.6. WANEP participated in a Regional Consultation with AU Regional Economic Communities (RECs) from 17 to 18 June 2025 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, to advance the WPS agenda beyond the 25th

¹⁴ The Facility is structured around three pillars: an Academy for mentorship and experiential learning; regional and national advocacy to foster an enabling environment; and technical and financial support for aspiring women leaders.

¹⁵ The CRF, originally developed by the African Union in 2018, serves as a key monitoring and tracking tool for WPS implementation. In 2022, ECOWAS adapted a simplified version to better align with the West African context and improve reporting by Member States.

anniversary of UNSCR 1325. Organised by the AU PAPS ¹⁶Department in collaboration with UN Women and AU NeTT4Peace¹⁷, the consultation convened around 30 REC representatives to assess progress, challenges, and strategies for adapting the WPS agenda to shifting geopolitical and conflict dynamics across Africa. As a key ECOWAS partner, WANEP shared regional insights and also contributed to a preceding expert meeting that helped shape a continental study to assess WPS implementation. Findings from both engagements will support AU efforts to accelerate locally led, innovative solutions for WPS delivery.

2.7. From 27 to 28 May 2025, **WANEP Togo** trained 34 women community mediators and Youth4Peace members in advocacy techniques linked to peace and security challenges, in Atakpamé, Togo. Organised under the EQUIPOP-funded project *“Pour une mise en œuvre transformatrice des programmes Femmes, Jeunesse, Paix et Sécurité au Togo”*¹⁸, the training enhanced participants’ skills and culminated in the development of an advocacy roadmap.

- ❖ Following the training, women mediators led three radio programmes marking global observances against disinformation and conflict-related sexual violence. These outreach efforts raised public awareness of gender-based disinformation, hate speech, and sexual violence during conflict.
- ❖ On 27 May, the Network also convened a review meeting with the committees of Women Mediators and Youth4Peace to reflect on achievements and challenges during their mandate. The session explored reasons behind declining engagement, especially among youth, and generated key recommendations for WANEP Togo and the two platforms.

2.8 WANEP Burkina Faso strengthened the capacity of women’s organisations to promote peace, security, and good governance. A total of 400 women’s groups, including 200 young women, received training on the WPS and Youth, Peace and Security (YPS) agendas, specifically UN Resolutions 1325 and 2250, as well as on political and community mediation. These sessions enhanced participants’ understanding of the WPS agenda and the qualities of an effective mediator.

- ❖ Additionally, 20 women’s organisations were trained in financial management systems tailored to non-profit entities, helping to improve transparency, accountability, and goal attainment. The same number of groups also benefited from digital communication training, enabling them to professionalise existing websites and establish new platforms, including LinkedIn and X (formerly Twitter).
- ❖ Furthermore, 20 women leaders received in-depth training on Resolutions 1325 and 2250, along with the Continental Results Framework, further deepening their knowledge of the WPS agenda. The quarter concluded with the development and validation of an advocacy action plan aimed at increasing women’s and girls’ participation in governance and peacebuilding processes. The plan was informed by recommendations from a diagnostic study on legal and structural barriers limiting women’s inclusion.
- ❖ The Network strengthened its collaboration with the Ministry of Gender and the Ministry of Territorial Administration and Mobilisation. The network contributed to the steering committee of the UN Peacebuilding Fund project under the leadership of the Directorate for Women and Gender. It also shared its experience in preventing radicalisation and addressing violent extremism during a workshop organised by the Directorate-General for Religious, Customary, and Traditional Affairs from 25 to 26 June 2025.

¹⁶ AU PAPS: African Union Political Affairs Peace and Security

¹⁷ AU NeTT4Peace: AU Network of Think Tanks for Peace

¹⁸ In English: Towards Transformative Implementation of the Women, Youth, Peace and Security Agendas in Togo,”

2.9. WANEP Guinea-Bissau contributed to several initiatives promoting gender-responsive peacebuilding and institutional coordination in crisis prevention:

- ❖ From 28-30 April 2025, the Network participated in a national seminar on addressing gender-based violence (GBV) and sexual harassment, targeting judicial, health, and social service actors. Held in Bissau, the forum aimed to establish an institutional reporting mechanism and define collaboration pathways among police, medical professionals, and social workers. Key recommendations included: i) Establishing a specialised office to manage GBV-related complaints across institutions. ii) Developing an updated map and coordination platform of institutions and organisations combatting GBV. The seminar convened 100 participants (75 women and 25 men), including government representatives, civil society, and financial partners.
- ❖ Additionally, WANEP Guinea-Bissau, in collaboration with UNICEF and the Institute for Women and Children (IMC), conducted a two-day training for IMC monitors. The training focused on data collection tools, early warning systems, and their relevance to crisis prevention and response. Supported by the UN Peacebuilding Fund, the training strengthened the capacity of local monitors to support peace initiatives through timely data and alert mechanisms.
- ❖ Furthermore, the Network's Women Mediators Network (REMUME) organised a leadership and conflict prevention session to promote women's visibility and structured participation in peace processes. Emphasis was placed on integrating a gender lens into conflict prevention and ensuring women's inclusion in decision-making. Recommendations included: i) Integrating gender perspectives into all peace and security initiatives and ii) Ensuring quotas and inclusive mechanisms for women's active participation in peacebuilding. The session gathered 25 participants (20 women and 5 men), reinforcing WANEP-Guinea-Bissau's commitment to inclusive and sustainable peace.

2.10 WANEP-Mali contributed to the following initiatives:

- ❖ On 26 June 2025, the Network convened a multi-stakeholder advocacy workshop in Bamako under the theme "Urban Security and Participatory Governance: Placing Women's and Community Voices at the Centre." During the workshop, the Bamako Women's Taskforce presented and submitted an advocacy brief to the Security Sector Reform Commission (CRSS), calling for more inclusive and community-driven approaches to urban safety and security governance.
- ❖ From 13-14 May 2025, in Oslo, Norway, WANEP-Mali took part in a high-level meeting of WPS focal points on "Inclusive Peacebuilding and Recovery: Rethinking Strategies and Approaches." WANEP's Programme Officer contributed to a panel discussion on the role of local organisations and networks in bridging humanitarian, development, and peace efforts, highlighting the challenges and opportunities faced by civil society in conflict resolution and protection work.
- ❖ On 25 April 2025, it joined the official launch of the CSO Working Group on the WPS Agenda, organised by APROFEM and Cordaid. The platform aims to strengthen civil society collaboration in advancing UNSCR 1325 in Mali.
- ❖ On 23 May 2025, it contributed to a subcommittee session on logistics, security, and protocol for the forthcoming États Généraux about Women, Children, and Families, led by the Ministry for the Promotion of Women, Children, and the Family. Discussions focused on validating terms of reference and planning the process at local, regional, and national levels.
- ❖ On 16 June 2025, it participated in the official launch of the États Généraux, held under the theme "Mali engages in a national dialogue to build a just future for women, children, and families", reinforcing WANEP's engagement in inclusive national dialogue processes.

2.11. WANEP Niger participated in several strategic engagements aimed at empowering women and civil society actors:

- ❖ Under the “We Lead” Programme, it took part in an online co-creation session, where 20 participants strengthened their collective capacity to design impactful actions. WANEP Niger also participated in a restitution workshop, presenting the results of a Knowledge, Attitudes and Practices (KAP) study to better inform joint interventions.
- ❖ To mark Nigerien Women's Day, WANEP Niger produced and widely shared a video featuring inspiring messages from women and young female leaders, reinforcing the visibility of the Women, Peace and Security (WPS) agenda.
- ❖ The Network joined a diagnostic workshop on strengthening women's civil society organisations (CSOs), where participants reviewed findings and prioritised key areas for long-term technical, strategic, and organisational capacity building. At the event, 20 women CSO representatives strengthened synergies, shared field experiences, and laid the groundwork for a collective advocacy strategy. Participants also committed to establishing mentorship mechanisms between established women leaders and young women in civil society to ensure leadership continuity in peace processes.

2.12. In contributing to empowering women for environmental advocacy and peacebuilding in Nigeria;

- ❖ On 9 June 2025, **WANEP Nigeria's** WIPNET South-South Zone joined Kabetkache Women Development and Resources Centre to commemorate World Environment Day. The forum addressed the link between environmental degradation and conflict in oil-producing communities, spotlighting the disproportionate impact on women and girls. Stakeholders from the oil industry and regulatory agencies engaged in discussions on plastic pollution, community displacement, and weak enforcement mechanisms. The event called for stronger partnerships, gender-inclusive environmental policies, and increased women's leadership in peacebuilding and regulatory dialogues.
- ❖ Additionally, **WANEP Nigeria** conducted an impact assessment of the Young Women Leaders (YWL) Programme (2021–2022), implemented in partnership with the Global Network of Women Peacebuilders and Global Affairs Canada. Findings showed that 93% of the 70 trained participants have taken on leadership roles, contributing to women's empowerment, conflict resolution, and policy advocacy. While mentorship and networking support were key strengths, gaps in follow-up training and funding were noted. Recommendations include establishing an alumni network, expanding seed grants, and enhancing post-training support to sustain youth-led peacebuilding in Nigeria.

2.13. As part of the project titled “Combat cross-border cattle theft between Senegal and Guinea-Bissau”,

- ❖ **WANEP Senegal** received a research report assessing the impact on women victims and analysing the organisational structures of women's and youth economic groups in the targeted regions. A comprehensive survey conducted in the previous quarter along the border regions identified affected women and disadvantaged youth, creating a baseline database of potential beneficiaries and their income-generating needs.
- ❖ Following the findings, management committees for women and youth empowerment initiatives were established in each of the six project regions. Targeted training sessions in project development and management were also held across all regions to strengthen local capacity for sustainable economic activities.
- ❖ Additionally, WANEP-Senegal participated in the validation workshop of a study by OFII and the French Embassy, which examined the average capital required to launch sustainable micro-enterprises in key economic sectors in Senegal.

2. 14. WANEP Benin

- ❖ In partnership with *Coopération Suisse*, Cabinet Particip GmbH, Réseau pour l'Intégration des Femmes des ONG et Associations Africaines (RIFONGA-Bénin), and *Femmes engagées pour des nominations et des élections paritaires* (FENEP), supported the implementation of 25 micro-projects led by women beneficiaries of the Gender Equality Support (PAEG) Programme from 17 to 31 May 2025. These initiatives enhanced the visibility of women leaders within their communities and reached over 1,750 people, of whom 1,400 were women, through awareness-raising sessions on women's leadership, peace, and gender-based violence.
- ❖ From 1 to 30 May 2025, it facilitated 230 individual coaching sessions focused on ethics, values, and political engagement, further strengthening the personal and leadership capacities of the beneficiaries.

3. TO BROADEN THE PEACE EDUCATION PROGRAMME AND SUPPORT YOUTH PARTICIPATION AND VOICE IN ISSUES OF GOVERNANCE, PEACE AND SECURITY

3.1. Support for the development of the National Actions Plan (NAP) on Youth, Peace and Security (YPS) across West Africa: Under the Just Future Programme, supported by the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs, **WANEP** is facilitating the development of National Action Plans (NAPs) on Youth, Peace and Security (YPS) in Niger and Mali. These NAPs will serve as blueprints for youth inclusion in governance, peace, and security decision-making, and will anchor youth-centred policies and programmes at national level. They will set priorities, coordinate actions, track progress, and ensure accountability in the implementation of UNSCRs 2250, 2419, 2535 and related continental and regional frameworks. The process represents a tangible legacy of the Just Future Programme and will contribute to the sustainability of YPS initiatives in Niger and Mali.

WANEP Senegal participated in the national framing meeting for the development of the 2025 Senegal NAP. In addition, it contributed to a high-level dialogue on social cohesion and intercultural dialogue, offering insights on youth participation; joined a validation workshop on financing plans to support sustainable peace; and participated in a co-design workshop for the YPS NAP alongside institutional and youth stakeholders.

3.2. WANEP The Gambia, serving as a resource person, contributed to the popularisation of the National Action Plan on Youth, Peace and Security in the country. This initiative, funded by ActionAid International, was implemented in partnership with ActionAid (The Gambia), the National Youth Council, Beakanyang, and the Ministry of Youth and Sports. The content of the Plan was disseminated across regions to enhance public awareness and understanding.

3.3. WANEP Burkina Faso

- ❖ Empowered youth from peace clubs and the Youth4Peace initiative through peace-focused activities across six secondary schools. These included awareness sessions on drug abuse, gender-based violence, social cohesion, culture, sport, and cinema. As a result: i) six peace initiatives were conducted; ii) 1,447 students were reached (including 808 girls); and iii) 189 students (88 girls) were trained in youth association governance and effective organisational practices.
- ❖ Sensitised a total of 1,463 students (including 543 girls) on the importance of social cohesion and cultural identity. Activities included community fashion shows, local cuisine exhibitions, and discussions on traditional conflict resolution mechanisms. Events were held in six schools.
- ❖ Trained 30 young people in life skills and interpersonal development. Of these, nine reported improved daily experiences, including increased self-confidence, critical thinking, communication, listening skills, and problem-solving, contributing to better group collaboration.

- ❖ Raised awareness through radio programming: nine interactive radio programmes were broadcast via four community radio stations in Ouagadougou and Ouahigouya. These focused on the causes and consequences of gender-based violence in schools, communities, and mining sites. A total of 30 direct interactions, reaching approximately 72,000 listeners, was recorded.
- ❖ Supported youth employability through internships: as part of its youth reintegration efforts, WANEP Burkina Faso continued its professional internship programme. Out of 13 applications received, seven young people were placed; five completed a six-month internship, while two commenced new six-month internships during the quarter.

3.4. WANEP Guinea-Bissau participated in two key national engagements:

- ❖ A National Dialogue held from 11 to 12 June 2025, for Post-Election Stability, organised by the National Forum of Youth Political Parties (FNJP-SD), under the theme "United Youth for Coordinated Action." The event formed part of the broader Political Stabilisation and Reform Project, aimed at promoting inclusive dialogue and supporting reforms that enhance democratic resilience, with a particular emphasis on women's leadership and participation in peacebuilding and governance. The dialogue concluded with key recommendations to promote cooperation and strengthen youth engagement in democratic processes.
- ❖ The launch of the final report on Guinea-Bissau's National Youth Policy, on 20 June 2025, was hosted by VOZ DI PAZ and Interpeace in Bissau. The event brought together government authorities, youth-focused organisations, and development partners, including UNFPA. Discussions focused on updating the youth policy framework, promoting youth entrepreneurship and girls' empowerment, enhancing youth participation in electoral processes, and fostering active citizenship and human rights awareness. A total of 65 participants attended the event (40 men and 25 women).

3.5. In commemoration of the International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking 2025, **WANEP Mali** organised a multi-stakeholder advocacy session on the theme: "*Mobilising Actors for a Coordinated Response to the Drug Problem in Mali.*" The session convened 58 participants (17 women), with over 90% youth representation. It provided an interactive platform to examine the root causes, impacts, and collective responses to drug abuse and trafficking in Mali. A formal advocacy brief was presented and submitted to the National Director of Youth for policy consideration. The event also enhanced youth awareness and established a dialogue space among institutional actors, civil society organisations, community leaders, and youth to strengthen prevention and response measures.

3.6. WANEP Niger participated in a youth workshop on "Youth Leadership, Climate Change, Gender Equality and Gender-Based Violence (GBV)" organised by Young Leaders Actors of Change (LAC-LAC initiative). The workshop led to the creation of a network of young climate leaders committed to combating GBV and promoting equality. It concluded with a youth declaration advocating for the integration of gender-sensitive climate actions in local policymaking.

3.7. WANEP Nigeria

- ❖ hosted a collaboration visit from the Conflict Prevention and Resolution Capstone Project Group (SPPG Cohorts 2025). On 18 June 2025, the session provided a platform to exchange ideas on peace education initiatives and explore opportunities for collaboration in expanding the programme across Nigeria.
- ❖ Convened CSO stakeholders from various local government areas of Lagos State—Epe, Ikorodu, Alimosho, Kosofe, among others—for a dialogue on preventing and countering violent extremism (PCVE). The engagement culminated in the inauguration of the Lagos State PCVE Steering

Committee, mandated to lead coordination, advocacy, and policy engagement on PCVE at the state level.

- ❖ Between 20–25 June 2025, the Lagos PCVE team conducted strategic advocacy visits to key institutions, including: i) The Ministry of Special Duties, where the Commissioner pledged institutional support and directed coordination with the Lagos State Neighbourhood Safety Corps. ii) The National Human Rights Commission, Lagos Office; iii) The Nigeria Security and Civil Defence Corps, Lagos Command. These visits aimed to foster inter-agency collaboration and strengthen local responses to violent extremism.

3.8. WANEP Senegal

- ❖ Collaborated with the *Union Nationale des Parents d'Élèves et d'Étudiants du Sénégal*¹⁹ (UNAPEES), holding a strategic meeting with its national leadership and conducting a working session with the Yoff (Dakar) branch to map schools in preparation for the pilot phase of a peace education programme in the commune.
- ❖ Strengthened the capacity of its Youth4Peace members by training 20 young people on issues related to violent extremism and radicalisation in Dakar. A WANEP Senegal network member was supported to participate in the West and Central Africa Youth Forum for Peace held in Accra, while two others contributed to the co-design workshop for the YPS National Action Plan.
- ❖ Completed the mapping of community-based organisations (OCBs) in Yoff to guide local programming and developed a project proposal titled “Flagship Initiative for Civic Space and the Promotion of New Models of Citizen Engagement,” which was submitted to UNDP for potential funding.
- ❖ The Network Coordinator delivered a keynote address on ‘*How to Build Lasting Peace at the Local Level*’, encouraging young people to engage in community-based peace initiatives, at an event organised by the Young Men's Christian Association (YMCA), *Parcelles Assainies* Branch, Dakar.

3.9. WANEP Togo executed the following activities:

- ❖ On 9 April 2025, in collaboration with the peer educators’ club at a local school complex, a sensitisation session was conducted on the theme: “*Students, Mobile Phones, and Social Media*.” The session reached 400 students, highlighting the risks associated with social media, the negative impact of excessive phone use on academic performance, and promoting responsible and mindful digital habits to support academic success.
- ❖ On 2 April 2025, a consultative meeting was held with student delegates of the Faculty of Law at the University of Lomé. The meeting provided an opportunity to present the objectives of forming a peace club within the university. The delegates shared valuable recommendations to ensure the initiative aligns with students’ needs and interests. Two delegates participated in the exchange.

3.10. At the ECOWAS Regional Conference on Youth Participation in Governance held at Accra, from 7-9 May 2025, **WANEP Côte d’Ivoire** spotlighted the role of youth in reversing democratic backsliding. The organisation also advocated for integrating Peace and Citizenship Education into national curricula across West Africa, urging ECOWAS to support countries yet to adopt it.

¹⁹ In English: National Union of Parents of Pupils and Students of Senegal

4. TO EXPAND COMMUNITY RESILIENCE AND BUILD THE CAPACITY OF INSTITUTIONS TO PERFORM THEIR MANDATE EFFECTIVELY IN HUMAN SECURITY

4.1 As part of ongoing efforts to strengthen national peace infrastructures in mitigating the spillover effects of violent extremism and terrorism from the Sahel into the coastal states of West Africa, **WANEP**, through its Liaison Office with the AU Peace and Security Department (PAPS), played a central role in designing and delivering training and capacity-building activities for the National Early Warning Centre of Togo in April 2025.

4.2. WANEP Ghana, with support from Oxfam,

- ❖ facilitated a stakeholder engagement on the SEPP²⁰ project from 7 to 10 April 2025. The activity aimed to revitalise project implementation in the beneficiary districts of West Gonja, Zabzugu, and Tatale-Sanguli. As part of the engagement, dialogue platforms were established to promote peaceful co-existence between cattle herders and local communities.
- ❖ Additionally, from 14 to 16 May 2025, the Network conducted three district-level one-day refresher workshops for 45 local government officials in the same districts, including newly appointed agency leadership, to reorient them on their roles and responsibilities in adopting and implementing key co-existence mechanisms related to climate-induced conflict.
- ❖ Furthermore, from 9 to 14 July 2025, it facilitated the distribution of turkey-berry seeds to farmers in the districts as part of a pilot seed nursery initiative. A total of 15 individuals participated (14 males, 1 female).
- ❖ Additionally, with support from UNDP, the Network conducted multi-agency, multi-stakeholder public sensitisation campaigns via radio on the roles of civilians and security forces in promoting peace and preventing violent extremism in at-risk border communities across three northern regions of Ghana, with estimated audiences ranging from 30,000 to 500,000 listeners. As a result:
 - i) 24 communities reported improved knowledge of their roles in maintaining peace and security;
 - ii) Trust and collaboration between civilians and security agencies were strengthened, leading to enhanced information sharing and quicker responses to incidents; and
 - iii) Widespread public awareness was raised on violent extremism threats and joint prevention efforts across eight districts in the project areas.

4.3 As part of the Economic Resilience Against Violent Extremism project,²¹ implemented by **WANEP Togo**, the following key activities took place:

- ❖ Conflict Prevention and Violent Extremism Training held on 13 May 2025 with the participation of 50 cooperative members from two project villages. They were trained in conflict prevention and peaceful resolution, as well as in strategies to counter violent extremism. The training enabled participants to better understand conflict dynamics and acquire tools to identify and mitigate local security and peace risks.
- ❖ Training on Cooperative Principles and Management held on 22 April 2025. 50 members comprising 25 poultry farmers and 25 market gardeners from two newly established Simplified Cooperative Societies (SCOOPS) were trained on cooperative principles and administrative, production, financial, and commercial management. The session(s) aimed to build strong foundations for efficient and sustainable cooperative enterprise management.

²⁰ The Sustainable and Empowering Peace Project in Ghana (SEPP-Ghana) focuses on mitigating conflicts between herders and crop farmers in selected districts.

²¹ In French: Résilience Économique face à L'Extrémisme Violent, Continuité (REVV) The project aims to strengthen economic opportunities for youth and women in rural areas affected by violent extremism, while also enhancing community security and conflict prevention.

- ❖ **Technical Training in Animal and Crop Farming:** On 24 April 2025, members of the Nanergou livestock and market gardening cooperatives were trained in practical farming techniques. Topics included the components, benefits, and distinctions between bio-compost and Bokashi. The session concluded with a hands-on compost production exercise led by the trainer.
- ❖ **Capacity Strengthening of Village Livestock Assistants (AVE):** On 29 April 2025, six village livestock assistants received refresher training in basic poultry health, with a focus on guinea fowl.

Additionally, **WANEP Togo**

- ❖ organised a multi-stakeholder workshop in partnership with the Friedrich Ebert Foundation's Peace and Security Centre of Competence (FES PSCC) on the theme "*What Vision for Regional Security in West Africa? Reflections from Civil Society.*" The workshop provided a platform for 32 participants to contribute to a shared, inclusive regional security vision, resulting in key recommendations for institutional and political actors.
- ❖ Facilitated seven community dialogues across villages in the Savanes region, aimed at promoting peaceful coexistence before, during, and after the municipal elections of 10 July 2025. Moderated by members of WANEP Togo's network, the dialogues reached 355 participants (202 women, 152 men; including 85 youth), raising awareness on non-violence and civic responsibility.
- ❖ Carried out a digital campaign to mark the International Day of Fact-Checking, raising awareness on misinformation. The campaign reached over 4,000 users and recorded 295 engagements.
- ❖ Conducted ongoing media monitoring of socio-political programming to analyse content trends and their influence on public opinion and democratic discourse.

4.4. WANEP Guinea-Bissau, as part of the cross-border cattle theft prevention project with Senegal, supported the establishment of inclusive management committees for women and youth financial empowerment initiatives in Bafatá, Oio, and Cacheu. Key outcomes included: i) Formation of inclusive management committees; ii) Clarification of roles and responsibilities; iii) Validation of IGA implementation strategies and tools. The activity involved regional authorities, project beneficiaries, and coordination teams from both countries. A total of 25 participants per region took part, with gender balance ensured.

4.5. As part of efforts to support transitional justice in Côte d'Ivoire, **WANEP Côte d'Ivoire**, in collaboration with partners, implemented several key activities under the project titled "*Fonds au profit des victimes*²²":

- ❖ A consultative dialogue, hosted with human rights organisations and victim associations to review emblematic incidents and align programme interventions with victims' expectations.
- ❖ The staging of *La pièce des 220 logements*, which it co-organised, followed by public dialogue sessions with affected communities and youth to reflect on Côte d'Ivoire's past and promote reconciliation.
- ❖ Three community therapy sessions, conducted in areas affected by violence (including Siaka Koné market, March 3 Women's March, and Anonkoua Kouté), reaching 90 participants, primarily women.
- ❖ Income-generating support, provided to 17 victims, empowering them to launch self-selected livelihood activities.
- ❖ National remembrance ceremonies, held in Yopougon, Abobo, Duékoué, and Bloléquin, honouring victims of the 2002 and 2011 crises. These events promoted recognition, healing, and peaceful coexistence.

²² In English: Victims' Trust Fund

5. UTILISING RESEARCH CAPACITY TO SUPPORT POLICY ADVOCACY AND LEVERAGE PARTNERSHIPS

5.1. From 12-16 May 2025, **WANEP** formalised a two-year partnership with the Sentinel Project, a Canadian NGO specialising in the prevention of mass atrocities. The initiative, titled "Localised Early Warning to Strengthen Community Resilience and Counter Violent Extremism in Burkina Faso and Benin," aims to enhance early warning communication systems, providing timely information to local and national decision-makers to effectively address security threats in border areas.

5.2. In May 2025, as part of the Research and Action for Peace (REcAP) Network project implemented by the consortium comprising **WANEP**, the Danish Refugee Council (DRC), and the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI), the REcAP Mentorship Programme was launched to strengthen the research and peacebuilding capacities of young researchers in West Africa and the Lake Chad Basin. The three-month programme includes training in research methods, leadership, public speaking, and policy advocacy.

5.3. From 15 to 16 April 2025, **WANEP** collaborated with the Social Science Research Council, the African Peacebuilding Network (APN), the Next Generation Social Sciences in Africa (Next Gen) programme, and the Conflict Research Network (CORN) West Africa to convene a high-level policy dialogue in Accra, Ghana. The event addressed emerging geopolitical and strategic challenges in West Africa and the future of ECOWAS. It also served as a timely convergence of regional expertise and commitment, aimed at fostering peace, reinforcing ECOWAS's mandate, and exploring sustainable pathways for the reintegration of the Alliance of Sahel States. The meeting concluded with a jointly developed [communiqué](#) outlining key reflections and policy recommendations.

5.4. As part of the GIZ-funded project *Strengthening Multistakeholder Conflict Prevention Architectures in Africa*, **WANEP** supported a three-day multi-stakeholder training on Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) in Zambia. Organised with Southern African Centre for the Constructive Resolution of Disputes (SACCORD), GIZ, and the African Union, the workshop convened 38 participants from government institutions, CSOs, media, and academia across national to district levels. Discussions addressed natural and human-induced risks, including drought, deforestation, and water-related conflict. A key outcome was the call to enhance people-centred early warning systems, aligned with Zambia's Structural Vulnerability and Resilience Assessment (CSVRA) under the AU's Continental Structural Conflict Prevention Framework.

5.5. WANEP Sierra Leone participated in a workshop on 9 April 2025 as part of the NANHRI-DIGNITY Project titled "Improved Implementation of Legal Frameworks to Prevent Torture and All Ill-Treatment." The session aimed to establish a solid foundation for the three-year initiative by enhancing participants' understanding of the mandate, vision, and mission of key partners, while also identifying relevant state and non-state actors involved. Building on this effort, the Network held a familiarisation and capacity assessment meeting on 10 April 2025 with DIGNITY. The meeting strengthened collaboration between both organisations and identified priority areas for capacity building and joint interventions.

5.6. In May 2025, **WANEP Mali** participated in the data collection process for the evaluation of the National Strategy for Security Sector Reform (SNRSS) and its 2022-2024 Action Plan. As part of this exercise, WANEP Mali responded to a questionnaire on the implementation of the SNRSS, providing insights on actions undertaken, results achieved, impacts observed, and challenges encountered. The organisation also contributed reflections and formulated key recommendations to inform the development of a new Security Sector Reform strategy.

6. TO STRENGTHEN WANEP'S INSTITUTIONAL CAPACITY AND ITS MEMBER ORGANISATIONS TO DELIVER ON THEIR MANDATE

6.1. In line with **WANEP's** Network Accountability, Learning and Planning System (NALPS), the organisation has commenced the development of a new Strategic Plan for 2026–2030, following the ongoing implementation of the 2021–2025 Plan. This process, informed by WANEP's early warning system and analysis of the West African peace and security context, seeks to define the organisation's strategic direction, priorities, and high-level objectives for the next phase. It aims to strengthen peacebuilding efforts, guide decision-making, and enhance collaboration with stakeholders and partners, while also drawing on findings from the ongoing evaluation of the 2021–2025 Strategic Plan.

6.2. On 20 June 2025, **WANEP Nigeria** held a virtual training on performance management to improve organisational effectiveness and alignment. The session reinforced the importance of clear goal setting, accountability, and continuous feedback in building a high-performing team. The initiative reflects a broader commitment to strengthening internal systems and fostering a culture of learning, performance, and strategic coherence.

6.3. **WANEP Togo** held its Annual General Assembly, bringing together the Board of Directors, member organisations, and the coordination team. The session reviewed activities and results from 2024, provided space for reflection on key challenges, and identified priorities to enhance the network's effectiveness and impact.

6.4. **WANEP The Gambia** participated in a refresher training on Monitoring and Evaluation and the HACT²³ system, organised for UNDP implementing partners, which contributed to enhanced institutional capacity. Additionally, as a member of the Civil Society Dialogue Platform established by the National Human Rights Commission, the Network was elected to serve as Chair of the Platform.

7. COLLABORATIONS AND EFFECTIVE NETWORKING

7.1. **WANEP** contributed

- ❖ its expertise to the development of the Common African Position on Climate, Peace, and Security (CAP-CPS) through the participation of its AU Liaison Coordinator in the Expert Committee established by the Department of Political Affairs, Peace and Security (PAPS). In this role, WANEP took part in the technical workshop held in Nairobi, Kenya (9-11 July 2025), which focused on reviewing the draft CAP-CPS document.
- ❖ to advancing the African Union's Continental Structural Vulnerability and Resilience Assessment (CSVRA) as a member of the Steering Committee, appointed by PAPS in partnership with the African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM). In June 2025, WANEP supported the drafting of the Terms of Reference (ToR) to guide the implementation of CSVRA in Member States.

7.2 As part of its continued technical support to the Coalition of Civil Society Organisations for Peace & Conflict Prevention in Central Africa (COPAC), **WANEP** participated in a two-day reflections webinar held on 25 and 29 July 2025 with early warning and country coalition focal points. The discussions focused on peace and security challenges flagged by the COPAC NEWRS (National Early Warning

²³ HACT stands for the Harmonised Approach to Cash Transfers; to manage and monitor the use of funds transferred to implementing partners.

System). Ten priority issues were identified across several countries (Angola, DRC, Congo, Cameroon, Gabon, Rwanda), including GBV, political tensions, demonstrations, shrinking civic space, youth unemployment, armed attacks, drug abuse, road accidents, community conflicts, and incitement to hatred. COPAC is expected to release its security report in August 2025 in Gabon with the participation of key partners.

7.3. On 16 May 2025, **WANEP** co-moderated a panel discussion at a symposium on Preventing Violent Extremism (PVE) in Benin. The event, organised by *l'Amicale béninoise du Centre d'études stratégiques de l'Afrique* (ABECESA) in Cotonou, focused on enhancing collaboration between security forces and civil society.

7.4. WANEP Mali participated in an international training on Community Violence Reduction (CVR) held in Switzerland, alongside delegates from over 20 countries. This platform allowed the National Coordinator of the Network to present key stabilisation initiatives, such as the establishment of Communal Security Advisory Committees, the reinforcement of early warning mechanisms to curb community violence, and the promotion of social cohesion. Participation in the training helped position the Network as a credible and engaged actor in global peace and security discourse, while also opening avenues for future collaboration with organisations working in similar contexts.